

Mohave County Miner.

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Taxes on Mining.

With all the encouragement given to mining by the Mexican government, the taxes on this leading industry of the republic has grown by gradual additions until it is now a serious problem. Now that the dynamite tax of 210¢ per ton is coming on, the taxes on the industry are assuming large proportions. Mine owners are becoming restless, as the taxes on the product of every mine can be figured at from 8 to 12½ per cent; in other words a mine has got to pay 20 per cent clear over the cost of production to allow any reasonable margin to the operator after the government taxes are paid.

Yet the miner has gone along all the time uncomplainingly, making money to be sure where mines are so rich as in Mexico. But he is becoming restless and feels that he is paying more than his share, as no other business in the Republic is taxed so much. Engineers have to figure these taxes in making estimates on the value of mines, and taxes from 8 to 12½ per cent of the yield of ore as measured in money is enough to appall the prospective investor.

But right here some one says "you will just scare away capital, by agitating this subject." We reply there is no use in trying to keep these things quiet; the thing to do is for the mining fraternity by concerted action to get to work and procure a reduction. Mexico is like any other country, if you want anything you have to ask for it. The miner has got to help himself, as long as he sits supinely back he can pay his taxes and enjoy his receipts therefor.

But let us look at some of these figures. The rough estimate of 8 to 12½ per cent of the yield of the ore as measured in money depends, to be sure, upon the location of the mine, its distance from the railroad, the modes of communication, fitness of the bullion produced, etc. But here are some figures: Federal taxes, which include 1st, a coinage duty of 2 per cent; 2d, a stamp duty of three per cent, and 3d, government assayer's fee of 2.50¢ per bar of 35 kg., or fraction thereof; State tax which includes 1st, an export duty of 2 per cent, and 2d, a stamp duty levied by the Federal government of 25 per cent of the state export duty of 2 per cent. In this connection it must be remembered that for collecting the Federal taxes silver is valued at 40.195¢ per kilogram, and gold at 675.416¢ and to this must be added the rate of exchange on gold for the first fifteen days of the month previous to gold valuation and the duties collected on that sum.

As an example, that eminent mining authority, The Engineering and Mining Journal, says: "In the case of a representative mine located in northeastern Mexico the figures for a period of nine months show that the expenses on cyanide bullion for duties, expressage, refining and melting amounted altogether to 9 per cent, while similar expenses on mill bullion during the same period averaged nearly 8½ per cent of the gross value of the bullion."

Add to this the dynamite tax.

Again, what is to be done? Either pay it and say nothing or get together and ask the government for a reduction. It will meet the miners half way, without doubt.

In treating of this subject, by the way, we have said nothing about denouncement fees of 28¢ each, and the annual tax of 10¢ per pertenencia, tax on capital stock if organized into a corporation, etc. It is best to figure 10 per cent for all these taxes as being the safe and average figure. This would be a good question for the Chamber of Commerce to take up.—Chihuahua Enterprise.

Mothers

Who would keep their children in good health should watch for the first symptoms of worms, and remove them with White's Cream Vermifuge. It is the children's best tonic. It gets digestion at work so that their food does them good, and they grow up healthy and strong. 25¢ at H. H. Watkins' drug store.

Lead is Too Low.

In the spirit of commercial fairness to the struggling miners and mine owners, more especially those in control of low grade properties, the American Smelting and Refining Company should place lead in ores on the 48 basis. This is precisely what it promised some months ago, when it dropped the quotation from 3.90¢ to 3.50¢ per 100 pounds. The market was oversupplied at that time, and the contest between the different selling companies was somewhat acute in New York.

This is not the situation at present. Reports from St. Louis show a recent advance of 1.50¢ per ton in crude lead, making a total advance of 38¢ per ton since the middle of August. The market closed steady at 5.50¢ per ton to the owner of the ore, a price that leaves a margin of 48¢ per ton smelting charges on 70 per cent ore, against a former allowance of 78¢ per ton. In the Colorado furnaces ore of that grade, as a flux for "any" gold ores, would be a gift to the smelter at no charge whatever for the handling.

In New York in the week ending September 19, pig lead in carload lots gained 68¢ per ton, the American Smelting and Refining company demanding 4.35¢ and 4.45¢ per 100 pounds for their product. This means 88¢ per ton, compared with 7.8¢ to the miner, or 188¢ per ton for the handling compared with 48¢ at St. Louis.

At the end of August the Spanish lead market reported an advance for the week in the matter of price, with heavy exports to Marseilles and London. The latter market is also firm, with no surplus stock.

Friday morning last the New York Commercial, which quotes lead prices as fixed by the agents of the smelter trust, commented as follows: "Spot lead continues very firm at 4.50¢. The difficulty experienced for some time in securing spot supplies continues, and manufacturers of lead products are often inconvenienced by their inability to secure prompt deliveries. London was unchanged at 11½ 2s 6d. St. Louis reported the market strong and supplies scarce. Missouri quoted at 4.45¢."

This journal reported the smelter trust price for 50 ton lots at 4.40¢ per 100 pounds, and straight carload lots at 4.42½¢, with the silver taken out.—Rocky Mountain News.

Business and morals.

The Western Electric company of Chicago has given its employees something to think about. Incidentally, the company has opened a field for discussion as to the extent to which an employer may legitimately exercise a censorship of the personal conduct and habits of his employees, aside from any question of the amount of character of services performed or wages paid. The company, which employs about 1,500 young men, has posted the following notice in its offices, factory and shipping departments:

"Playing the races and all other forms of gambling, immoral conduct, and the excessive use of cigarettes greatly impair one's usefulness. The best business houses in the city do not desire the services of those who practice any of these things. Notice is hereby given that any employee so abusing himself is subject to dismissal."

Officials of the company state that they have been making a careful investigation into the habits of their young men and have found that the employees who play the races have become careless, nervous, negligent of their duties and morally spotted. Excessive cigarette smoking, the managers assert, clouds the intellects of the victims and renders them unfit for the intelligent, painstaking work demanded of them. The position taken by the company is that its business demands the services of bright-eyed, clear-brained, honest young men, and that this service cannot be secured from clerks who spend their time from the office in gambling, playing the races, and other forms of dissipation.

At first flush the average young American would render such restriction of his "personal liberties" and promptly declare that his time is his own outside of office hours, and that

his employer has no right to dictate the mode of life to be observed by his clerks. There is no denying the fact that this is the view taken by the average person. It will be remembered that a storm of protest was aroused some time ago when Mr. Shaw, Secretary of the Treasury, promulgated a similar rule with reference to the conduct of persons holding positions of trust in his department. The Secretary was roundly abused by certain sportively inclined employees, but the fact remains that the rule is still in force, and according to report, has been very generally observed, to the betterment of both the public service and the men against whom it was directed.

The position of the managers of the Chicago concern is unassailable so long as they insist that they are making no effort to regulate the morals or manners of the men in their employ. They are simply serving notice of the kind and character of employees they demand, and giving their present force the option of meeting those requirements or looking elsewhere for work. We are disposed to believe that the decision of the Chicago company is a long step in the right direction. It will be a valuable lesson if the young men of the country learn that there is a business penalty as well as physical and moral ones, that must be paid by the lusher, the gambler, the race habitue, and the man who spends his spare time in vicious dissipation. The knowledge that his indulgence in nerve-racking and brain-weakening vices and habits will be weighed against him in wage-earning capacity will do more to wean the average young man from these abuses than sermons, tracts and sumptuary laws.—Tucson Citizen.

Low Grade Gold Deposits.

It was reported a short time ago that a big deposit of low-grade gold ore near the Colorado-New Mexico line has been sufficiently developed to show that it was very valuable and also that it could be treated with but little difficulty.

Deposits of this kind have been classed among the most valuable gold mines. The great Homestake mine in the Black Hills belongs to this class. It is an enormous body of ore that runs only a few dollars to the ton. The ore is easily mined and economically treated. The large quantity and the easy treatment combine to make the production of gold exceedingly profitable. A rumor is now in circulation that an offer of 35,000,000 has been made for this property. Even if this rumor is not true, it at least gives an idea of the estimated value of the mine.

The great Treadwell mines in Alaska, from which millions of dollars in gold have been extracted, belong to the same class. While these mentioned are among the most noted, similar deposits of less value have been worked in different parts of the country. In fact, practically all the mines in the Rand district, South Africa, belong to the low grade class.

The mining industry in Colorado could ask nothing better than the discovery of a few big deposits of low grade gold ore susceptible of treatment at a small cost. It would mean both a large increase in the value of our gold output and the employment of many more men in mining, in milling and in transportation, to say nothing of those who would find various occupations in connection with the life of a community dependent upon the operation of such a mine.

A few facts about the Treadwell mine supply an interesting illustration. This mine is situated on Douglas island across the channel from Juneau, and together with the Mexican and Ready Bullion properties, operated in connection with it, it gives employment to some 1,200 miners. The output is about 5,000 tons a day and the ore is crushed under 880 stamps. It is estimated that the total product since the mine was opened is at least 12,000,000, which is more than the United States paid for the whole of Alaska. The ore ranges in value from 2.50¢ to 6¢ or 7¢ per ton and the cost of treatment is only 1.35¢ per ton.—Denver Republican.

General Mining News.

Wm. Pettit, one of the leading mining men of Parral, and owner of the well known Adela mine near Santa Barbara, has closed a deal for the purchase of fourteen mining properties of W. S. Benton in the Inde district, state of Durango, for 120,000 Mexican. Mr. Benton was a guest of the Palace Hotel last Sunday and Monday and was here on business connected with this deal. In speaking of this matter and the district generally, Mr. Benton said: "I have been at Inde, engaged in the mercantile business and mining for 14 years and I feel certain that we have there the best undeveloped section in northern Mexico. I am certain I gave away my property, but I have others and thought it best to sell some to a mining man like Mr. Pettit who has the capital to exploit them properly. The ores of Inde are rich in silver and lead with some gold. All that has kept the district back is lack of transportation facilities, as we have to haul ore 60 miles to Rosario. We think we are going to have a railroad soon, as the National is making the preliminary survey from Discubridora to Inde, a distance of eighty miles. There is considerable high grade ore shipped from Inde. From the La Cruz, Ernesto Avila and myself ship about 200 tons per month that runs 100 oz. silver, 10 per cent lead and 3 10 oz. gold. The Potrillo mine of Victoriano Mortos, adjoining the Pettit properties is shipping 200 tons of 125¢ ore monthly. A number of other mines are shipping smaller amounts. There is at least 1,000,000 ounces silver in numerous dumps, all lower grade ores, that await railroad transportation and reduction plants. Inde mines were discovered in 1557, and it and Santa Barbara, Chihuahua, are the oldest mining camps in northern Mexico. The ore bodies are very large and high grade and are in good demand at the smelters."—Chihuahua Enterprise.

Wm. Climo, superintendent of the Shannon mine, was down town this week for the first time in almost a year. Mr. Climo says that he is now employing about 300 miners in the various mines under his supervision. The mines are now producing an average of 600 tons of ore per day, which is certainly a splendid showing. During the past month about 1000 feet of development work has been done in the mines, and new ore bodies are continually being opened up. The old Shannon mine is now producing a considerable amount of high grade ore and Mr. Climo thinks it will hold its own with the best of them in the territory. He has one slope 80 feet wide of low grade ore. He has also recently opened up a fine body of high grade ore on the Sands group, which is owned by the Shannon company, and from which Mr. Climo expects great results in the future. Everything around the mine is now running like clock work, and there is no trouble to get plenty of miners. Mr. Climo is one of the hardest working and most conscientious mining men in the territory and the success of the Shannon mine is largely due to his intelligent management.—Copper Era.

O. B. Steen and Colonel Fox of San Francisco are in the southern part of the territory for the purpose of inspecting the Soledad property. The thirty days' option given the Kansas City parties expired on the 7th inst. These parties, on account of the present condition of the eastern money market, wanted a sixty days' extension of the time of the first payment, but it was refused by Mr. Steen, as he had two other offers for the property which he considered much better. Colonel Fox represents some prominent capitalists who will buy an interest in the property, providing it comes up to his expectations, upon his examination. It is his intention to put up some extensive machinery and open up the property.—Tucson Star.

For a pleasant physic take Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets. Easy to take. Pleasant in effect. For sale by H. H. Watkins.

Lung Diseases of Mines.

The African Review, in discussing miners' phthisis in the Transvaal, says that the commissioners appointed to inquire into the subject found that the disease is largely confined to miners who have worked in metalliferous mines for some time, and is more especially to be found among the rock-drill miners of the Rand mines. In the Witwatersrand 1,212 miners were medically examined at the instance of the commissioners, and of these 187 were found to be affected by the disease, and a further 88 were looked upon as suspected cases. The average life-span of miners afflicted with this terrible scourge is 35 years. The report ascribes the disease to the inhalation of dust, and states that it is more prevalent among rock drillers than any other class of workers. It is essential that respirators should be worn by these men and that special attention be paid to the investigation of the character and harmful properties of the dust in the mines, mine ventilation, gases given off during blasting operations, mine sanitation, and the conditions under which the miners live. The disease is correctly known as silicosis, and is a condition of chronic fibrosis of the lung. The inhalation of fine angular dust in the mine produces enormous development of the delicate fibrous tissue in the lungs. Thereupon bands and patches of solid useless material gradually encroach on the normal breathing apparatus and interfere seriously, and eventually fatally, with the respiratory functions.

Do You Want to Yawn?

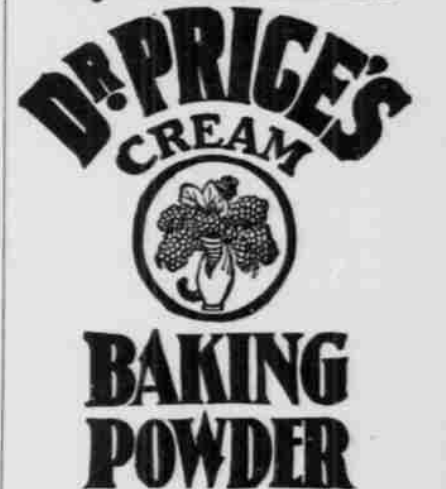
Feel cold shiverings, aching in the bones, lack of energy, headache, and great depression? These symptoms may be followed by violent headache, high fever, extreme nervousness, a condition known as malaria. Herbine cures it. Take it before the disease gets a fair hold, though it will work a cure in any stage. J. A. Hopkins, Manchester, Kan., writes: "I have used your great medicine, Herbine, for several years. There is nothing better for malaria, chills and fever, headache, biliousness, and for a blood-purifying tonic, there is nothing as good." 50¢ at H. H. Watkins' drugstore.

A Woman's Complexion.

It is rank foolishness to attempt to remove sallowness or greenishness of the skin by the use of cosmetics, or "local" treatment, as advocated by the "beauty doctors". The only safe and sure way that a woman can improve her complexion is by purifying and enriching the blood, which can only be accomplished by keeping the liver healthy and active. The liver is the seat of disease and blood pollution. Greene's August Flower acts directly on the liver, cleanses and enriches the blood, purifies the complexion. It also cures constipation, biliousness, nervousness, and induces refreshing sleep. A single bottle of August Flower has been known to cure the most pronounced and distressing cases of dyspepsia and indigestion. New trial size bottle, 25 cents; regular size, 75 cents. At H. H. Watkins' drugstore.

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